

President Clerides and Denktash have been meeting since the beginning of this year. The third round of these talks resumed last month. I am confident that the leadership of the Republic of Cyprus will continue to negotiate in good faith until a comprehensive settlement is reached as they have tried to do all along.

Mr. Speaker, I now hope the Turkish Cypriot leadership will listen to the statements of the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and finally respond by putting aside its unreasonable and unacceptable demands and negotiate in good faith. The most effective way for Turkey to expedite its membership into the European Union is for the Nation to finally support Cyprus' own accession into the EU and to drop its threats of annexing the Turkish-occupied northern third of the island if Cyprus' accession occurs. Turkey could also help its cause with the European Union by listening to its own Deputy Prime Minister and undertaking new initiatives on Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, given the instability in the adjacent region of the Middle East, now is a great time to heal the wounds in Cyprus that have been poisoning the relations between Greece and Turkey for nearly three decades. I am hopeful that the U.N. Secretary's visit to Cyprus and the statements of a high ranking Turkish official will move us closer to a just resolution of the Cyprus problem.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINOJOSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHOWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for us to change our policy toward Cuba. Yesterday, 40 bipartisan Members of this House who comprise the Cuba Working Group, 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans, organized by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), released a set of policy recommendations designed to encourage a more rational, mature and sensible policy towards Cuba. As a member of that working group and as a longtime critic of U.S. policy towards Cuba, I wholeheartedly endorse the recommendations. They are sensible, they are mainstream, and they are an achievable set of policy goals for U.S.-Cuban relations. Among other things, the group urges a repeal of the travel ban imposed by the U.S. Government, which denies Americans the right to travel to Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, freedom to travel is a basic right for all Americans. It goes against our values to tell Americans that they cannot travel to certain destinations.

Further, Americans visiting Cuba in my opinion can help promote democratic values more than all the high-voltage speeches that are regularly delivered on this House floor. The group also calls for more normal relations with regard to exports of U.S. agricultural and medical products to Cuba by eliminating U.S. procedures and restrictions that make such activity virtually impossible. The group also urges better cooperation between our two countries in terms of controlling migration and in terms of combating drug trafficking. We also call for an end to the restrictive and counterproductive Helms-Burton law.

There are other recommendations in this report designed to encourage a better relationship between our two countries. The recommendations in this report should be implemented and are in the best interests of both the American and Cuban peoples.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. policy toward Cuba today is about as relevant as a little piece of the Berlin Wall that you can buy in gift shops. It is a relic of the Cold War that no longer serves any meaningful purpose. Our policy undermines the values and goals the United States cares about, values like freedom and open markets. Thank God for Jimmy Carter. He deserves our praise for speaking the truth about human rights to the Cuban government and the Cuban people and he deserves our praise for advocating the end of the misguided and ineffective U.S. embargo on Cuba. It is frustrating, in my opinion, that the Bush administration does not get it. It is frustrating that for all the rhetoric about democracy, the will of this Congress and the will of the American people to normalize relations with Cuba consistently gets trampled on.

Right here in this Chamber, we have on a number of occasions voted over-

whelmingly to lift the travel restrictions now imposed on U.S. citizens, preventing U.S. citizens from being able to travel to Cuba. We have voted numerous times to lift that restriction. Yet in each instance mysteriously these provisions get lost in conference committees. It is wrong. The leadership of this House and indeed the White House should respect the will of the Members of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the President would engage us in a real dialogue about our policy. The time has come for honest and forthright negotiations between the Congress and the White House on this issue. I fear, however, that next week the President will rattle the same old dusty sabers. He will show the same old unhealthy obsession with Fidel Castro. But he should know, Mr. Speaker, that there is a bipartisan majority in this Congress and there is a bipartisan majority in this country that will continue to advocate for some common sense.

WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is necessary to reflect on the day's legislative agenda to frame for yourself and your colleagues and the American people just what occurred. I am disappointed today to have to announce that what occurred today was both unnecessary and, as well, misguided. Today, the House debated welfare reform. It debated it in a rushed atmosphere that was completely unnecessary. First of all, the legislation, originally called H.R. 4700, now called today 4737, does not expire until September of 2002.

There was much debate on what occurred in 1996, when the President of the United States was named William Jefferson Clinton and welfare reform came to light in a larger forum. All of the numbers suggest that it was a success and we should continue on, and there is no debate on that. Certainly there were a lot of strides that were made with transitioning individuals from welfare to work. They were proud of that. In my own district, I know that I attended a number of graduation classes of individuals who had the ability to be in training programs that allowed them to develop skills to move them from welfare to work.

What one would think that we would do today, of course, would be to build on that success story, not tear it down. But I heard someone today on the floor say, you know, this is about tough love, get them out working 40 hours and that is what this is all about. But then I heard someone come back and say, this is about tough luck and tough loss. It is about condemning poor people, that they have no intent to improve themselves, that everybody on welfare is there purposefully and does

not want to work and creates a deficit on society. That is not true. Many people have fallen upon hard times. Many people have had hard times in their early lives and the cycle is not broken.

I am so disappointed that we did not do something constructive today, that we did not increase the amount of dollars needed for child care. It is well known through a study that by the increased work that we are now requiring these young women to engage in, that there is a need for increasing child care dollars. In fact, in my own congressional district whenever I go home, young mothers will come to me and say that they are on the waiting list trying to get child care so that they can either go to school or go to work. We did not do that today.

In fact, in my own State, out of the passage of this Republican get-quick bill that did not need to be passed today, we are going to give the State of Texas, along with 50 other States, what we call unfunded mandates. In fact, the State of Texas will have \$688 million over the next 5 years to fund this bill which is not funded. \$344 million it is going to have to pay for child care, which it does not have, over the next 5 years, which is unfunded through this bill, and in the meantime in the State of Texas we are going to leave 37,000 women, parents, single parents, on the waiting list for child care. What a shame and what a sham.

If we had only been given the opportunity for those of us who are concerned about these issues to reasonably debate what these issues are about. Let me share with my colleagues some amendments that were cast to the side. First of all, if anyone is awake and alert they will know that the unemployment rate is going up. In many of our jurisdictions people are unemployed. That means the jobs, the make-work jobs, the jobs that we used to have in 1996 really are being competed for by those that do not have any work. I should know because I am obviously a victim in our community, in Houston, from terrible tragedies that have occurred, Tropical Storm Allison and in fact, of course, the unfortunate circumstances with Enron where I have got 4,000 of my constituents still laid off. And around the country. So, therefore, this should have been a serious debate.

Did anyone concern themselves about inflation and whether or not the welfare payments are for individuals taking care of children? Remember, this bill used to be Aid to Dependent Children. This is not the promotion to work bill, which none of us are afraid of. I have worked since I was 16 and many others have, but this is about protecting our children. The inflation factor, they did not want to add it. What about teenage parents? Of course we want parents who are mature. Of course we do not want teenage parents. But if you have them and they resort to welfare, would you not want them to have parenting skills and financial skills?

How to manage money? Is that not a simple request to add to this bill? It was totally discarded by my Republican friends. Then of course I have already mentioned the concern for more child care. We had a bill on the floor today, an amendment that would have provided us \$11 billion more in child care so that the parents cannot only go to work and therefore get off of welfare completely or go to school and get the kinds of skills that would allow them to get off of welfare and not look back. I cannot imagine why these amendments were not accepted.

Also we have never had a study, Mr. Speaker, as I close, to find out whether welfare parents and the support they get will diminish child abuse and whether or not it allows them to permanently stay off of the welfare system. We could have done a better job. We could have done a better job on behalf of the American people, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed we have not. I hope that we will come back to this question again.

CONGRATULATING DR. CARLA HAYDEN ON HER ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Carla Hayden, a community leader and current executive director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library from my district in Baltimore, who has just been elected by a landslide to serve as the President of the American Library Association. She will be the second African-American woman to hold this very prestigious post in the association's 126-year history.

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the entire world. Dr. Hayden will serve as its President-elect beginning this July and then take over as President in July 2003. In this position, Dr. Hayden will lead an organization of more than 64,000 librarians, library trustees and library supporters. But what is most significant about this association is that it represents the hub of our communities. Libraries connect us to the world around us, help us reflect upon our past and open the doors to our future. All of us remember either visiting our local library or using the facility at school.

Libraries serve people in many ways. They enhance our quality of life by providing a quiet place to sit, read and learn. But that is not what libraries are all about. They are vital community centers that provide Internet access, family literacy classes, homework assistance, mentoring programs, English as a second language classes, job training and writing workshops.

In addition, today's libraries play a critical role in bridging the digital di-

vide. Since Dr. Carla Hayden began to head the Baltimore Library System, which is known as the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the State of Maryland has stood as a national model for other libraries to build upon.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library has served Baltimore and the surrounding communities since 1882. In 1971, the General Assembly designated the Enoch Pratt Library as the Maryland State Library Resource Center because of its outstanding and diverse collection.

□ 1715

It was one of the first libraries that included all Members of the community. Today, Pratt Central Library is in the process of building an annex that will allow the library to be of greater service to the entire community. This new addition will house a Maryland Reading Room, an African American Reading Room, a public computer lab, and a SAILOR Operations Center, just to name a few.

Dr. Hayden was instrumental in establishing the SAILOR Project. The SAILOR Project is the Nation's first library data network with Internet access and an interlibrary loan system that provides Maryland residents access to information any time of the day from any location within the State.

Dr. Hayden is also known as a key player in advancing the E-Rate Program, which was included in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and signed by President Clinton. This landmark legislation gave libraries access to Internet and information technology at discounted rates.

Dr. Hayden's nationwide experience will greatly contribute to her position as President of the American Library Association. One of Dr. Hayden's goals for the organization is to ensure equal access for all. After winning the election, Dr. Hayden said, "All people who seek knowledge, from birth to college, deserve opportunities for growth and exploration."

Prior to coming to Baltimore in 1993, Dr. Hayden served as the Chief Librarian of the Chicago Public Library System and taught graduate studies as assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Science of the University of Pittsburgh. Currently she is an adjunct faculty member at the College of Library and Information Services of the University of Maryland at College Park.

I continue to be especially impressed by Dr. Hayden's efforts to encourage minority students to enter the field of library science. Since the mid-1990s, she has chaired the American Library Association's Spectrum Initiative, a program that gives financial assistance to students working to obtain their Master's Degree.

Mr. Speaker, that is just one of the reasons that Dr. Hayden was recognized by Library Journal in 1995 as Librarian of the Year and was recognized as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by